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The Highlander

Thursday **April 2 2026** | Issue 733

INSIDE: EASTER EVENTS PAGE 22 **FREE**

Splashing into spring

A patriotic skier skips across the water during Sir Sam's annual Spring Splash event March 28. More on page 12. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Council pumps brakes on transit talks

By Lisa Gervais

Once again, plans for a bus between Haliburton village and Minden Hills – with the possibility of one day expanding to Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East - have driven off the road because staff and council have deemed the cost to be too high.

In a report to a County of Haliburton council meeting last week, director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, asked councillors to pump the brakes.

The County issued a request for proposals for an on-demand or hybrid transit service in the fall of 2025. They received four bids. However, Ovell said they were all more than double the $182,601.52 the County has in a transit reserve.

"If County council still wishes to explore transit solutions within the County, staff would recommend discussions during 2027 budget deliberations around annual contributions towards the transit reserve," he said.

This term of County council has been trying to find an affordable provider since 2024 with no success.

Ovell added the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus has been discussing how the provincial government is working towards developing provincial framework to standardize ride-share rules. He said the goal is to improve service in rural areas and reduce municipal red tape as individual municipalities regulate and manage taxi and

Continued **'Some'** on page 2

Highlander news

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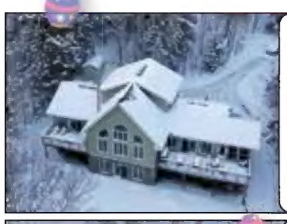

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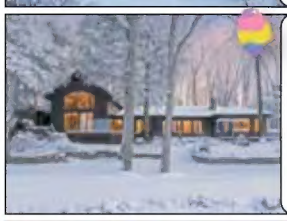

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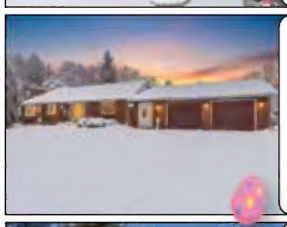

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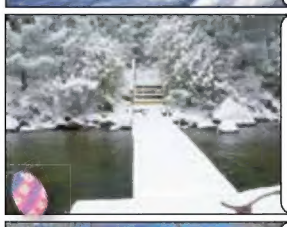

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

Coun. Bob Carter said the need for public transportation isn't going away. *File.*

Some towns subsidize rides

Continued from page 1

ride share licences.

"It should be noted that if this were to take place, it would not guarantee a ride-share company would choose to operate in Haliburton County, with some businesses citing population density and geography as cost barriers to entering the marketplace in rural Ontario, with some seeking subsidies from local municipalities to offset operating costs."

He said a recent example is Prince Edward County, which used $50,000 of its portion of the Municipal Accommodation Tax in 2023 to support a partnership with Uride. He noted the contribution was lowered to $30,000 in 2025.

"County staff will continue to monitor progress on the provincial legislation and will follow up with council should provincial legislation be updated." Ovell added.

Coun. Bob Carter said the need for some form of public transportation "is not going to go away… particularly as the County's population grows, and to more unsettled areas." He agreed with what was being proposed but said, "I think the next step is we should ask staff to try to put together what it would cost for us to have transportation. In other words, what would the subsidy need to be. So, when we get into budgeting, we decide." He said towns such as Peterborough heavily subsidize their transportation, supplemented by Trent University providing students with bus passes.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux suggested it might be time to scrap a fixed route system, in favour of subsidizing private systems. She suggested they talk to organizations such as Point in Time, and SIRCH, as well as Haliburton Highlands Health Services. The latter two have trialled smaller transportation projects in the Highlands.

Coun. Murray Fearrey said with little commercial or industrial tax base, the cost will come on the backs of residential taxpayers.

CAO Gary Dyke said they are not stopping the discussion, and staff will be looking to reprioritize spending in future. "Transit will be an important part of this as we go forward."

The Ontario government announced April 1 it is doubling its support for the Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF) through the 2026 provincial budget, increasing it from $5 million to $10 million annually over the next three years. The OTIF supports the start-up and expansion of transit projects like new bus services, on-demand rideshare services and door-to-door transportation.

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

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THIS WEEK:
Minding the Gap: Youth and Family Services

Minden Hills to crack down on STRs

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills is about to give its short-term rental bylaw more teeth by making the STR coordinator a full-time, permanent position and looking to implement an administrative monetary penalty (AMP) to help with enforcement.

Council made the moves at its March 26 meeting on the recommendation of new director of finance, Zach Drinkwalter.

The township developed a STR bylaw in 2024 to police the industry and adopted a four per cent municipal accommodation tax (MAT).

They hired Granicus Canada to help with administration, but municipal staff are still required to manage licences, respond to questions from licence holders, follow up with non-compliant property owners, and coordinate inspections.

Last September, the town hired someone to work 24 hours a week to help, with the contract up this coming fall.

Drinkwalter said since the new hire started, "there has been a noticeable improvement in compliance and increase in corresponding revenue. For example, prior to the position, there were 67 properties not in compliance, but, as of January, that number has been reduced to 46. However, Drinkwalter said more non-compliant properties show up each week.

There are problems with MAT collection too, he said, such as property owners being unsure of how to report, failing to report on time, or submitting inaccurate reports.

"While the bylaw permits the township to audit STR operators to ensure accurate reporting, no staff had previously been assigned to carry out this function, nor was there the capacity to address this new line of business," he said.

"Since the introduction of the part-time position, the township has seen a significant increase in MAT collection." For example, they collected $0 in MAT tax in 2024, $13,681 in 2025 and $23,448 so far in 2026.

With STR revenue, it went from $10,000 in 2024, to $48,500 in 2025 and $4.500 so far in 2026.

"These amounts are expected to increase further with the proposed changes," Drinkwalter said.

Amping things up

Drinkwalter added they don't have the tools to enforce the new laws, so recommended the AMPs. They're are a municipally-administered enforcement tool that allows local governments to issue financial penalties for bylaw violations through an administrative process, rather than through the provincial court system.

When a penalty notice is issued, the recipient may either pay the fine or request a review through a municipal screening and hearing process. The system lets municipalities keep 100 per cent of the revenue generated from penalties.

"Implementing AMPs will provide the township with an effective tool to issue and collect fines for non-compliant STR operators in a timely and efficient manner. AMPs can be expanded to other areas in the future," Drinkwalter said.

He said the new full-timer could administer AMPs, anticipating revenue to cover the added costs. He estimated $204,164 in revenue in 2026, offset by $140,106 in expenses.

Mayor Bob Carter agreed with the AMPs, saying fines must be punitive enough to dissuade people from operating without a licence. A fine schedule will come back to council for future approval.

Short-term rental operators should take note of pending changes at Minden Hills. *File.*

Coun. Tammy McKelvey also wanted AMPs, and that they be applied to all bylaw infractions, not just STRs. She initially struggled with making the position full-time due to cost. However, she was convinced by Drinkwalter and CAO Cynthia Fletcher.

Fletcher said, "if you want the program to be successful, you have to resource it properly."

Coun. Pam Sayne was in support, saying hopefully over time the position would pay for itself.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said she would hold true to the principle that the STR program must pay for itself, without using taxpayers' money. She also questioned whether they would need bylaw to work after-hours.

Drinkwalter said his experience with other councils is the program was self-funded and generated substantial revenue, with some night and weekend work required for enforcement.

Minden starts up septic re-inspections

Minden Hills said it will start its annual septic re-inspection program in May "to ensure the protection of our local environment and water quality."

The township is hosting a public information session about the program April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St., Minden).

It is for Zones D1 and D2, which can be found on a map at mindenhills.ca/septic-reinspection.

The township said inspectors will conduct on-site visual assessments of sewage systems to identify potential malfunctions or environmental risks between May and October. Affected property owners will receive a detailed notice by mail prior to the inspection.

They are asking homeowners to ensure their system components (tank and leaching bed) are accessible and the questionnaire is returned to the septic re-inspection program email as soon as possible. These questionnaires must be returned prior to the inspection date. They will be included in the package mailed to property owners in this year's inspection zone.

For program details, maps with zone detail, and FAQs, visit www.mindenhills.ca/septic-reinspection. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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Highlander news

JDH parent council to query survey

By Mike Baker

The J.D. Hodgson parent council is following up with Trillium Lakelands District School Board's (TLDSB) equity and inclusion task force committee to address concerns local families have raised with a recent student census completed in-class by youth in Grades 7-12.

Chair Andrea Hogan told a parent council meeting March 30 she'll be writing a letter to TLDSB, while also raising the issue at an upcoming district meeting attended by regional parent council figureheads.

This is in response to the census, completed March 3, where students were asked to answer questions about their first language, Indigenous identity, ethnic origin, race, religious beliefs, gender identity, sexual orientation and their family's socio-economic status.

Philip Primavera and Minna Schleifenbaum, who have three kids enrolled at JDH, have criticized the survey. They were registered speakers at the meeting and asked why the school board needs to know sensitive information about kids. They also expressed concern over the impact questions may have on them.

Primavera said he wrote a letter to TLDSB in March seeking answers, receiving "a standardized response, which was total dribble." He followed up twice, asking for specifics on how the board would use the information to improve student learning and has not heard back.

"I think it's fair to say when something like this is introduced in a school setting, parents deserve a clear, specific explanation," Primavera said. "I also question how this was done. If the survey was truly voluntary, why was it administered during classroom time instead of being sent home for families to review together?

"If this had been sent home and required a parent's signature for processing, I believe many families would have taken a closer look at this," he added.

> *"...they talk about the importance of different approaches for students with different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds"*
>
> ***David Waito***

Principal David Waito said letters were sent to parents Jan. 31. Parents had until Feb. 12 to opt out. According to TLDSB, only 0.77 per cent of the student body were pulled.

Hogan asked Waito how the survey was administered and how teachers handled students who had been opted out. He said educators went over vocabulary and made sure kids understood all the terms included. It was completed on a Chromebook and took 15-20 minutes, with Waito saying students were also told they could skip any question they felt uncomfortable answering.

Students who didn't participate had the option of completing other schoolwork or reading, he said.

Schleifenbaum felt the questions were too heavy and wondered if youth as young as 12 were properly equipped, educationally and emotionally, to interpret them.

One teacher at the meeting said her Grade 8 son took the census and admitted he didn't know how to answer some of the questions.

"These are not neutral questions. They carry emotional weight and can shape how a child perceives themselves within their school community," Schleifenbaum said, asking if the board or Waito vetted the survey before it was released. "The school must have approved this… what makes this OK?"

Waito said some of the questions are mandated through Ontario's Anti-Racism Data Standards – though controversial ones on sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status were recommended, not required.

"We have to do a census every two years," he said, noting recommended questions come from data TLDSB has deciphered from provincial Right to Read and Dreams Delayed reports, outlining how information about a student's background can help schools build plans to improve the educational experience for youth from different cultural or ethnic backgrounds or with learning disabilities.

"I'd encourage you to take a look at those documents… because they talk about the importance of different approaches for students with different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds," Waito said.

Primavera also queried how much had been spent on this census, noting how JDH and Stuart Baker elementary school councils are currently fundraising $300,000 for a new playground. Those pieces of infrastructure are not covered by the Ontario government.

The Highlander asked TLDSB how much the census cost but did not receive a number, only confirmation the district received reimbursement from the province.

"It's incredible the province is prioritizing this sort of stuff over the physical and mental stimulation a playground provides," Schleifenbaum said. "We have our priorities all wrong."

Hogan said she would report back to parents once she hears from TLDSB.

"I'm looking for answers to some of these questions too," she said.

The proposed Sudbury Barrie Transmission Line

Join us at a community open house to learn more about this project

Ontario's long-term demand for electricity is increasing. To meet this demand, Hydro One will invest in a new priority transmission line between Sudbury and Barrie.

The proposed priority project is a new single-circuit, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will span approximately 300 kilometres from the Hanmer Transformer Station (TS) in Sudbury to the Essa TS near Barrie, including associated station facility expansions. The line is expected to be in service in 2032.

The project includes the direction from the Ontario government to complete development work for a second new single-circuit, 500-kV transmission line. The proposed transmission line will be developed in partnership with First Nations and help support new generation opportunities in northern Ontario, strengthen reliability and prepare the system for future growth. A recommended in-service date for the second line will be determined by the Independent Electricity System Operator.

This critical infrastructure will support reliability, foster economic growth and investments and ensure a dependable power supply for the significant increase in electricity use anticipated in northern Ontario.

Next steps

Join us in person or online in April to learn more about the project.

This project will be subject to the Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Transmission Facilities (2024), a planning process that includes opportunities for public and community input. Later this year, Hydro One will issue a Notice of Commencement to formally start the Class EA. At that time, we will also invite you to a second round of community open houses where we will share a project update, including route alternatives for the proposed lines.

If you'd like to be added to the project contact list, share comments or ask questions, please reach out to us anytime.

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Tuesday, April 14
4 to 7 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 117
30 Mary St., Parry Sound

Wednesday, April 15
4 to 7 p.m.
Centennial Arena
4333 Centennial Dr., Hanmer

Thursday, April 16
4 to 7 p.m.
Bracebridge Sportsplex
110 Clearbrook Trail, Bracebridge

You can also attend an online community open house:

Please register at
HydroOne.com/SBTL
Tuesday, April 21, 6 to 7 p.m.
Platform: Microsoft Teams

DYSART ET AL NEWS

Springing into town

Haliburton is one step closer to getting its own gymnastics facility after council agreed to wave $3,125 in planning and building application fees for a proposed facility on Industrial Park Road.

Kathy Judson plans to launch Haliburton Gymnastics at 367 Industrial Park Rd. later this year. She came to council in February to ask the township to waive any fees required before she can retrofit the space.

At Dysart's March 24 meeting, director of planning Jeff Iles pegged those costs at $6,250. It covers a zoning bylaw amendment application fee, site plan agreement amendment application fee, septic review fee and building permit fee. Council agreed to waive half those costs.

Haliburton resident and retired surveyor Greg Bishop spoke at the meeting and said he wanted to cover the remainder of the township costs. He also said he'll assist in putting together an updated site plan if one is needed down the road.

"This got my heart a little bit. I was at the last meeting when this came forward – I know my children have travelled to Bracebridge and Bancroft over the years to take their kids out of the County for gymnastics," Bishop said.

The one lingering question, on septic capacity, was also resolved with Iles saying the existing system is large enough to sustain 35 people at the facility.

After securing $100,000 from the Haliburton County Development Corporation to kickstart the gym, Judson said she's received another $85,000 from the community, with around 40 local businesses chipping in. She estimates she needs another $15,000 to reach her fundraising goal.

Kathy Judson of Haliburton Gymnastics is aiming to open her facility on Industrial Park Road this summer. *File.*

Fresh fundraiser

Head Lake Park will host a new summertime fundraiser in July benefitting Highlands charity Fuel for Warmth.

Volunteers Sue Waite and Drew Allen said the organization, which has been in operation since 2009, has seen a huge increase in demand over the past four years, growing from 28 calls for emergency support in 2021 to 132 in 2025.

"Last year we had a really busy season… and spent over $115,000 on fuel to support our community," Waite said. "We provide emergency heat to people who can't afford it. We work with fuel companies to deliver propane and oil, help with hydro bills and deliver firewood."

The organization is supported annually through the Highlands Christmas Shindig, which celebrated its 12th year in 2025. The November event raised $46,550 for the charity.

With demand spiking, though, Waite said that's not enough to sustain operations.

"We've used a lot of our reserves and have had to limit how much help we've given this year. So, we're trying to expand our fundraising," Waite said.

She was approached by Michelle Anton in January, who launched a new 'empty bowls' soup fundraiser in 2024, benefitting SIRCH Community Services and the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank. The effort has been successful, sparking the idea for an 'empty mugs' effort on behalf of Fuel for Warmth.

The event is to be held in Head Lake Park July 18, with council waiving park rental fees. Waite said they hope to attract 200-300 people and raise $10,000 to $15,000. A rain date has been scheduled for July 19.

"What you're doing is wonderful – your costs are only going to grow every year because of inflation. It's becoming so hard for people to get by," said mayor Murray Fearrey.

Snack bar on township menu

Arena staff will be taking over operation of the A.J LaRue snack bar ahead of the 2026-27 hockey season.

Parks and recreation director, Andrew Wilbee, noted the snack bar has been ran by a third-party vendor over the past couple of years with mixed results.

"The vendor has not met the level of service expected by the community on a consistent basis," Wilbee said. "Frequent complaints focus on the lack of consistent hours, not operating for some events due to staff shortages and affordability of food for families."

Wilbee feels staff can address these concerns by bringing services in-house on a trial basis later this year. He said it would be overseen by existing staff with part-time opportunities available to students. CAO Tamara Wilbee said the township has already received interest from some youth.

"I definitely think this is something that needed to be done, so it's great news," said coun. Barry Boice.

Council approved the proposal with Wilbee set to bring a detailed budget and staffing plan back later in the spring.

STR review coming

CAO Tamara Wilbee said staff are planning to revisit the township's short-term rental bylaw processes when its contract with Granicus expires next year.

The municipality utilizes Granicus software for licence applications, compliance monitoring and handling complaints, with the service costing around $50,000 per year. Wilbee said she believes staff can do some of the contracted out work in-house.

The existing contract came into effect in October 2024 and runs until March 2027.

"We're trying to plan ahead and look at creative ways to reduce costs," Wilbee said.

Dysart had received 24 new applications for STRs as of Feb. 28 and approved 11. In 2025, they received 253 applications and approved 240. That's around half of what was anticipated, building and bylaw manager Karl Korpela told council last month.

Fearrey and coun. Pat Casey said they wanted staff to hold a public meeting this summer to give the public another opportunity to weigh in on the file. Wilbee said they would look into hosting something at A.J. LaRue Arena.

Road reconstruction

Public works director Rob Camelon told council he expects to submit an application to reconstruct Hwy. 118 – including Maple Avenue and Mountain Street – to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) later this year.

"We've been doing engineering work for the past three to four years on this to get our ducks in a row so we can set ourselves up for a successful application. If we get the full package ready, our hope is we'll get funding to rehabilitate the whole section from the fire hall all the way up to the Gardens [of Haliburton] retirement home," Camelon said.

Staff are working on a potential design and once they have an estimated construction cost, Camelon said he hopes to tap into the province's Connecting Links program, which opens in November. He said the township could be eligible for up to $5 million.

Coun. Walt McKechnie felt it was past time something was done with the road – saying the stretch in front of Emmerson Lumber is always a mess at this time of year.

"We've been talking about this for a long time… I think the people in our community are looking for us to do something to prevent the big puddles of water that accumulate there," McKechnie said. "Every year it's a different degree to how bad it is."

(Dysart et al news compiled by Mike Baker)

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Highlander news

County of Haliburton tourism manager Angelica Ingram. *File.*

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Tourism stakeholder session

Tourism manager, Angelica Ingram, told County council, at its March 25 meeting, there had been a lot of talk over the past year about reigniting a tourism stakeholder group to share ideas, and work together towards a common goal of growth and opportunity.

She said that on April 2, there will be a stakeholder information session for tourism businesses and partners.

"This initiative is not being led by the County of Haliburton, but by local individuals with support from the County, the Haliburton County Development Corporation, the Haliburton Co-Op and more."

She said the goals of the initial meeting are: to share updates on tourism marketing and upcoming initiatives; provide an overview of the new Municipal Services Corporation – which will work to spend municipal accommodation tax revenue; and networking.

It's being held at the Pinestone Resort from 10 a.m. until noon.

Cost of council and committees

Councillors and committee members cost County of Haliburton taxpayers $268,021 in 2025.

Director of corporate services, Andrea Robinson, and deputy treasurer, Tanya Rosenberg, outlined the costs – which must be reported under The Municipal Act.

Warden Dave Burton received a total of $68,718.74. He was followed by Cec Ryall, at $32,448.25; Liz Danielsen ($30,613.92); Jennifer Dailloux ($29,544.19); Walt McKechnie ($26,915,20); Lisa Schell ($26,121.95); Bob Carter ($25,299.78); and Murray Fearrey ($21,904.23).

The accessibility committee cost taxpayers $1,321.64; the OPP detachment board $1,532.98 and the land division committee $3,600.

Trucks and hot mix

Council gave staff the green light to buy two new 2026 pickup trucks.

Director of public works, Sylvin Cloutier, recommended they go with the lowest of seven bids: spending taxpayers' money with Fraser Ford Sales Limited of Oshawa. Cloutier said the $118,847.03 bill is below the $144,000 budget.

Cloutier added they will replace two 2016 pickup trucks that will be 10 years old at the time of replacement. He added they are currently out of service due to extensive repair costs.

Council also gave staff direction to award the hot mix project tender to GIP Paving Inc., from five bids. The price is $1,450,604.57 including nonrecoverable taxes. The County budgeted $1,741,000.

Cloutier said the project will keep County Road 3 in an adequate state of repair and the Eagle Lake patrol yards compliant with federal regulations.

(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

ADVERTORIAL

The less you control, the better it feels

By Simon Payn

It's easy to get anxious about our landscaping.

Imagine pulling up at the cottage on a Friday night. You've driven three hours and the traffic was terrible. Now here you are, ready to sit on the dock with just the loons for company.

But you glance at the lawn and notice it's getting pretty long. And those hydrangeas left over from last year – they're looking terrible after the snow flattened them. And then there's that weedy area by the driveway that never got settled after you had more gravel added.

Pictures and reality

None of this is how you pictured your cottage. You wanted it to look neat and tidy, with flowers and fat hosta leaves. But the reality isn't matching the vision.

And that's where the anxiety lies.

That's particularly true when you're working with plants because nature has a habit of doing what it wants to do. Grow, mostly. Or get eaten by deer.

> The anxiety isn't from what the plants are doing but because the landscape isn't comforming to the picture in our heads.

And so we trim and we mow, we fix what's wrong – what doesn't fit the picture in our heads.

But then the land does what the land does and breaks out of the frame in our minds. So we fix it again.

You can see where this is going. The anxiety isn't from what the plants are doing – they're just being plants – but because the landscape isn't conforming to the picture in our heads.

Dialing in

I know this feeling. I've experienced it at Lucas House, my trial and demonstration garden in Haliburton village.

The side nearest the post office is a strange beast. It's partly shaded by the building but in the middle of the summer, the afternoons get hot and sunny.

Part of it is dry because a row of cedars suck up the water. The other part is wet, from downspouts or from the never-quite-drying shade cast by the house. All this makes it hard to choose the right plants – a foot the wrong way and you've got the wrong plant in the wrong place.

I tried planting violets near the cedars, but it was too dry and they died. But I've discovered the shaded area right by the house is perfect for Bottlebrush Grass.

And then there's the deer, which I've written about before, who are either napping there or dining there.

I can have the most beautiful vision for this part of the garden in my head, but it doesn't survive the first touch of reality.

Have I got anxious about this? I'd be lying if I said no. But I've come to see the process as a gradual dialing in to what the land wants.

There are plants that are flourishing there – drifts of Pearly Everlasting, a clump of Swamp Milkweed, sedges. These are plants the land supports.

I have some shrubs that are happy there, when they're not being eaten. I'll be protecting them this year.

Caring with curiosity

Do I care about this? Yes. I'm not caring less just because it's a struggle to make vision and reality meet. Instead, I'm caring differently, with curiosity.

I'm practising a different kind of control, where I'm noticing, then acting based on what I see. There's something relaxed about this, like a Friday night should be. I'm working with reality instead of imposing reality.

I'm gardening on the shaded side of Lucas House. There's a feeling of transition there; a sense that it's not woodland and not open land. I can see the scattered shrubs of a forest edge amid a carpet of sedges and Pearly Everlasting.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological gardens and shorelines in Haliburton County. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)
Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association

We acknowledge and appreciate financial assistance from the Government of Canada

What a night

By Mike Baker

I ended up getting a little more than I bargained for sleeping overnight in my car at Head Lake Park last Friday (March 27).

For years, I've covered Places for People's annual Sleeping in Cars fundraiser. My first one was 2021, back when it was held at Abbey Gardens. I remember speaking to an older couple there who came out to share their experiences sleeping in sub-zero conditions in a barely-heated caravan that winter.

I felt for them, as most empathetic people would. But I didn't really understand their situation as, fortunately, I'd never been exposed to the elements in such a brutal and prolonged way.

I got a taste of sleeping in the cold last spring, when the power at my Lindsay home was out for five days thanks to that historic ice storm. Still, I was inside an insulated building in a comfy bed next to another warm body and wrapped in half a dozen blankets.

Having gone through that, I mistakenly believed I was experienced in the art of Arctic sleeping. I agreed to partake in P4P's fundraiser without any worries or concerns. Despite most of my friends and family looking at me like I'd gone mad when I told them what I'd be doing, I thought I'd be fine and approached the night as something of a vacation.

Temperatures rose in the lead-up to the event, but it was chilly before sundown – around -6 Celsius. The overnight low was listed as -14, feeling like -18 with the wind chill. Hanging around the fire with some of my fellow car-sleepers, I fooled myself into thinking, again, that this wouldn't be much of a challenge.

After some hearty conversation with familiar faces – and life stories shared with new friends – I trudged off to my car around 11 p.m.

I didn't prepare as well as some – I saw many people with mattresses in vans, trucks and SUVs – but still, I was proud of the cozy set-up I'd arranged in the back of my Ford Edge. After a brief call home, I settled in to watch a movie on my phone, hoping I'd drift off to sleep part-way through.

I didn't.

About 30 minutes in, I had to switch positions to stop my breath from condensing the screen. Around the hour mark, I reached back for my hat and gloves, reapplying them to my near frozen appendages. By this point, I was wearing a pair of longjohns, sweat pants, pyjama pants, two pairs of socks, a shirt, sweater, hoodie, fleeced overthrow and wrapped in three blankets.

By the time the movie ended, I couldn't feel my toes. Thankful for the heat packs I accepted from a P4P volunteer earlier in the night – but internally swore I wouldn't use while inside my car – I applied two on each foot and hand.

There was some relief initially – enough that I was able to drift off sometime around 1 a.m.

My slumber didn't last long – I awoke every 30-45 minutes for the rest of the night. I could, and probably should, have turned my car on to warm up. But I felt that would have defeated the purpose. Yes, I was there to raise money for P4P. But I was also there to experience what it's like for those less fortunate than myself.

When the sun came up just before 7 a.m., the inside of my car was like an ice palace. I had to scrape all the windows before setting off home.

It was a miserable night, but one I'm glad I endured. Truly roughing it without a heater felt like I'd legitimately earned the $380 raised from family and friends. It also gave me a much greater appreciation for the warm bed I have at home. I don't think I've ever slept as well as I did on Saturday.

It might be a stretch to say I enjoyed my overnight stay at Head Lake Park, but it was an experience I can honestly say I'll never forget.

SAWDUST STORIES

Where gold is found

By Darren Lum

While having lunch with my father in a communal dining area, enjoying our takeout Chinese food, I noticed a couple nearby who were fully engrossed with whatever was on their phone screens. They barely looked at their food or each other. I wondered if they were satiated when they got up after finishing. They were there, but not present. What do we lose when we give attention only to our phones – moments whose value we don't remember until they're gone.

I grew up before smartphones. The sun rose, and I was set free to bike around the neighbourhood and return home when it set. I used to eat dinner with my parents and two older brothers at the Formica kitchen table under an incandescent light, with nothing but food and understated conversation.

It's in conversation (and silence) we learn about others, but, more importantly, we also find ourselves. Sometimes we're validated and sometimes we're challenged. Like a mirror held up, we see who we are without flattering AI apps to massage our egos. Those lessons about presence followed me into the workplace.

Recently, I had a conversation at the job site about how discomfort is the prerequisite to growth. The easy path rarely teaches us anything. On most days, I'm learning something new, adding another skill to the repertoire.

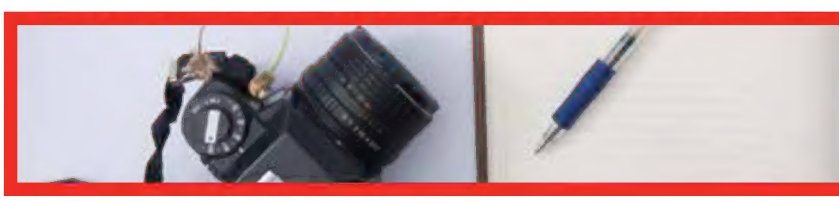
Over the past few months, I completed my first fireplace — with some help to get started. I formed and installed my drip caps and flashings. I used a paint sprayer on rods for custom railings. Doing new things as an adult is different. The thought creeps in: What if I screw this up? The pressure rises. The anxiety mounts. There is no delete key on bent metal.

But I did it anyway — because there were more experienced and skilled co-workers who stood with me. There was guidance. Encouragement. Correction when I needed it, but also freedom to learn. At the end of each project, there was a pile of metal offcuts, shattered shards, and repainted rods with my name on them — evidence of my lessons.

It's in these moments of shared effort that true alchemy happens. Smartphones can't teach patience, wisdom, or understanding. They can't turn lead into gold. But people can be a source of rarity, holding value beyond money. This is discovered through extraction, shaped by pressure, and refined with repetition. The same holds true of people. It's up to us to discover it.

We develop tangible skills in the trades, absorbing knowledge from those who give their time and expertise — things we can't acquire from a smartphone, but can feel in the encouragement another person provides. It builds efficiency through tried-and-true skills, rather than through trial and error alone.

The mentor gains purpose. The apprentice gains skill, confidence, and perspective. And it all happens because we choose to show up, present, without a phone between us – where the real gold is found.



SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK
editor@thehighlander.ca

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Thoughtful and consistent enforcement

Dear editor,

I am writing in response to your article, 'Public gets say in tweaking of STR rules,' published in the March 26 issue of *The Highlander*.

The article highlights concerns about the constant turnover of renters staying for periods of 28 days or less and the resulting impact on the quality of life for local residents. While emergency accommodations are occasionally necessary, these situations differ significantly from the ongoing disruption caused by short-term rental use. In times of crisis, community centres or other government facilities could serve as appropriate temporary accommodations.

A more pressing concern is the number of property owners operating short-term rentals without proper restrictions or licensing. This lack of oversight not only contributes to neighbourhood disruption but also raises potential safety issues. Without enforcement, unsafe conditions may develop. It is a concern that more serious incidents—such as fires or boating accidents—will rapidly escalate in addition to reports of excessive noise and late-night partying.

The municipality would benefit from reviewing how other communities have successfully addressed similar challenges. Thoughtful regulation and consistent enforcement are essential to protecting both residents and visitors in the long run.

Ingrid Carlaw
Algonquin Highlands

Increase council pay

Dear editor,

On the cusp of a municipal election, the low rate of pay offered to councillors is an obvious non-starter for any young person contemplating joining the campaign race.

A full-time job advertised as a part-time job and an annual salary lower than a living wage will not entice the best, brightest and most passionate among us to step up and run for office.

Current governments must be bold and vote to increase the annual salary of their future counterparts now to ensure the next generation of municipal leaders are not only paid fairly but also in a financial position to give the required time, attention and commitment to making Haliburton communities the best they can be.

Nicole Stewart
Minden Hills

Drive like your life depends on it

Dear editor,

Re: Adam Frisk's column, 'RIP turn signals', *The Highlander,* March 26.

Adam, the turn signal fluid has to be changed every 10,000 kilometres. Along with changing the air in tires to summer or winter air. Plus, the muffler bearings need to be greased every 10,000 kilometres too. Also, mount the GPS, dashcam, and phone on the windshield, in your line of sight. (This way, you have a reason for not seeing what you hit or what is going to hit you.)

But the majority of the time, the signal not working is operator error, or lack of use/knowledge of equipment.

Along with driving in the dark with only daytime headlights on, most people do not understand that just because their electric dash is lit up does not mean the vehicle's lights are on. Most vehicles now have a symbol showing headlights and running lights on.

So, folks, don't be that person who is cut out from your vehicle and put in a bag because the transport truck did not see you in the dark, and you decided to stop and turn without lights on and a signal.

Remember, rubber side down. Drive like your life depends on it (it does).

Charles Gerditschke
Moore Lake

Thank you

Dear editor,

I am a senior and receive the paper every Thursday. Thank you.

I am enjoying receiving notice of the new 'What the Haliburton' podcast and enjoy listening. Thank you for all you are doing to inform and create a difference for our community. Keep up the great work.

Marlene Mestroni
Algonquin Highlands

Congrats on the podcast

Dear editor,

I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and say thank you, for developing your 'What the Haliburton' podcasts.

They are very interesting, informative and on-point in terms of addressing the needs of our beautiful Haliburton County community.

Every product or service and especially those in media, need to always look for ways to develop product extensions to compliment their brand, stay fresh and ensure that their brand continues its top-of-mind awareness, within the market they serve. And, you have definitely done just that.

I look forward to hearing more in the coming weeks as you tackle some of the reality of living in Haliburton and surrounding areas.

Rob McCaig
Haliburton

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Shirley Davison-Mark of Haliburton sent this photo after a flock of turkeys decided to roost in their trees.

Highlander news

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GARDENS OF HALIBURTON

The footbridge in Head Lake Park was closed for the weekend but reopened March 30. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Mayor says new footbridge a priority

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey has promised the township is committed to replacing the faltering footbridge in Head Lake Park.

The walkway has been in poor condition for several years and was closed for three days March 27-30 after municipal officials were notified about a missing deck board. Parks and recreation manager, Andrew Wilbee, investigated the bridge on Monday and said two boards were missing. Staff replaced the missing pieces and had the bridge reopened that afternoon.

"This will only be a temporary fix as it is becoming more and more difficult to fasten the boards to the metal frame," Wilbee said.

Public works director Rob Camelon told council in early 2024 the bridge was nearing end of life, with the underside heavily rusted. Council initially approved a $590,000 replacement in October 2024 but did a U-turn last week, opting to shelve the project.

That came after Camelon said the price may be even higher now due to a lack of steel availability in Canada. Due to U.S. tariffs, importing sheet steel and tube piling – needed to secure the foundation – would significantly increase costs, Camelon said.

"We may go to tender and the price could come back just ridiculous and we can't afford it," Camelon told council at its March 24 meeting.

There, coun. Pat Casey asked about installing a Bailey bridge – a portable pre-fabricated structure – which he said could be sourced locally through Canadian manufacturer Algonquin Bridge.

Camelon said there would be structural issues to overcome going from an arced design to a straight structure, but the biggest obstacle would be getting the pre-fab design approved by Transport Canada. The federal body has rules around required headspace under bridges on navigable waterways.

"I think we're going to challenge Transport Canada on that," Fearrey said. "We have the Emmerson Dam on the one side and there's no way to pass that even in a canoe, so it's not navigable. We're hoping to make the case to put a flat bridge in there."

Going with a Bailey bridge would likely cost $100,000 to $250,000 – saving the township some serious money, Fearrey said.

Public wants bridge

Haliburton resident Bill Cornwall was walking in Head Lake Park on Friday when he came upon the closed off bridge. He was surprised as there were no signs or warnings at the park entrance, only caution tape covering the structure.

He encouraged council to proceed with a permanent fix as soon as possible.

"If it needs to be replaced because it's dangerous, then they need to replace it," Cornwall said. "This is a really nice park. It's a big advantage to Haliburton. An attraction that brings people to the community."

Jennifer and Steven Waugh were in the park with their two kids on Friday evening and had to re-think their usual walking route.

"It's not so bad if it's closed for a couple of days, but it would be a shame if they cut off the two sides [of the park] for a long time while they figured out what they were doing," Jennifer said. "A lot of people come here to get their exercise and like to walk all the trails, go between the playground and the beach. It would cut off the dog park from the boardwalk, and I know a lot of people use both, especially come summer."

Fearrey reiterated there are no plans to tear the bridge down without a replacement.

"We won't leave the park disconnected – we'll be putting a new structure in there one way or another," the mayor said.

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Councils urged to strike pay committee

By Susan Tromanhauser

Grey Highlands coun. Dane Nielsen suggested the public urge Haliburton County councils to form a remuneration committee, like the one in his rural area, during a Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project public meeting March 25 in Minden.

The Voices and Votes speaker series also heard from former Dysart et al councillors Andrea Roberts and Pat Kennedy and former Algonquin Highlands coun. Carol Moffatt.

Nielsen's township is a rural community, similar to Haliburton County.

The out-of-town politician said a non-council committee in his municipality determined appropriate compensation, which included salary with the same cost-of-living raises as staff, along with benefits and mileage.

"If you want someone to learn about sewers and take it seriously, they need to commit serious hours."

Nielsen added, "no one should be acclaimed – you want the best people."

There were numerous acclamations across the Highlands in the 2022 municipal election, and voter turnout was low, birthing the HHHDP for the Oct. 26, 2026 poll.

Kennedy acknowledged compensation may be too low to attract young people needing to balance family and work life. With most meetings in the daytime, it discourages working people, but, "if they changed meetings to evenings, the costs would rise to pay staff overtime," he said.

Grey Highlands coun. Dane Nielsen at the end of the voices and votes speaker series. *Photo by Susan Tremanahauser.*

Compensation ranges across the County are fairly consistent. Highlands East mayor Dave Burton was the lowest paid in 2025 at $32,500 and Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey the highest at $40,000. Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen made $38,000 with Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter getting just over $38,000.

Deputy mayors received between $25,000-30,000, with councillors paid between $20,000-25,000. Officials that sit on County council receive extra pay.

Roberts told the crowd of almost 100 her experience taught her "to take pleasure in the mundane things, like reviewing zoning bylaws."

Kennedy agreed "you learn to like" discussions about septic systems but there are also highlights of seeing public projects come to fruition and being able to say, 'I was part of that'." He cited the visitor centre in Head Lake Park and the Fleming College residence as examples.

Moffatt acknowledged projects sometimes start, but are not completed in a term. She said municipal operations take longer than private projects. She advised patience. "You don't have to like the rules, but you need to work within the rules (of local government)."

The panel members expressed concern about dealing with angry constituents, or fellow councillors. Moffat advised, "you're supposed to disagree – council should be made up of divergent opinions, different backgrounds."

Kennedy added it is the role of a councillor to talk with staff and colleagues in a way to "agree to disagree and still go to lunch with them." He added "people will stop you in the grocery store, and it is important to listen actively and with compassion." But Kennedy does not like social media as a method to engage, advising potential candidates "stay off Facebook."

Nielsen said constituents "are not mad at you, they are mad at the situation. I've been called a bleep on Facebook, but not to my face." Nielsen believes debate makes communities the best they can be. He added being a local politician is an opportunity to network with other councillors across the province and learn good ideas to bring back home.

Advice also came from the crowd when former Minden reeve Jeanne Anthon suggested everyone read the local newspaper for facts, not opinions, to learn more.

Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project next meeting: April 21 Stanhope Community Centre, Lauren Hunter – How to run a successful campaign.

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Highlander events

Straight up splashin'

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride closed out the season with its annual spring splash event on March 28, where skiers and snowboarders put on their best costume and braved the frigid splash zone as they attempted to hydroplane the large puddle. The ski hill wrapped its season the following day. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Textile Recycling

Along with donating gently used clothing to the Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store and the SIRCH Community Services 'Thrift Warehouse, Dysart ratepayers can drop off textiles for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

Place textiles in clear bags to help keep materials dry.

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Highlander events

New P4P lead hopes to build war chest

By Mike Baker

Marc Beisheim, Places for People's new interim executive director, was one of about 50 people to rough it for the annual Sleeping in Cars fundraiser. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

County non-profit Places for People (P4P) unveiled its first-ever paid staffer at its annual Sleeping in Cars fundraiser, with Marc Beisheim named interim executive director.

The chartered accountant steps into the role following years of chief financing roles in the corporate world. He's worked with The Canadian Press, energy company Hydrogenics and Aeroquest International Limited and holds a bachelor of commerce degree in accounting and finance from the University of Ottawa and master's in business management from the Schulich School of Business at York University.

"Most of my career has been spent in senior management roles in both operational and financial management in environments that were experiencing transition, significant change and growth… where they need a firm hand in choppy seas to refocus the core of the business" Beisheim said. "This background aligns well with where P4P finds itself at this moment."

He's no stranger to the organization having served as board treasurer since the fall. Beisheim said his main priority will be preparing the organization for major growth over the next few years.

P4P has committed to purchasing 15 of the 35 units Habitat for Humanity is building on Peninsula Road overlooking Grass Lake. Habitat hopes to break ground at the site in fall 2027.

P4P has yet to specifically reveal how much capital will be required to facilitate that, though last fall founder Fay Martin said she expects it will be several million dollars.

The organization currently boasts 21 units, which it offers at 80 per cent of average market rentals in the area. Heat and hydro are included in the rent.

"Our ambition would be to increase that over the next three years," Beisheim said. "The wind is at our back… I think the market is returning to a place where there may be opportunities in terms of existing builds that could be taken on as affordable rentals. We just need to find the means to act on those opportunities."

He said a key part of his job in the short-term will be identifying new revenue streams to allow P4P to increase its capacity.

"The way the organization has rolled over the past 20 years is jumping on opportunistic purchases that have been financed one at a time. We want to develop a more deliberate strategy fuelled by finances and backing that we're working on securing," Beisheim said, noting he hopes to have more news on that in the next three-to-six months.

"We want to position ourselves with a bit of a war chest to be able to meet our commitments to Habitat and grow even further beyond that," he added.

With the rising cost of living and economic uncertainty driven by U.S. tariffs and war in the Middle East, Beisheim feels "offering certainty to people through availability of safe, affordable housing has never been more important."

P4P president Susan Tromanhauser revealed at the organization's AGM in November that it was looking to add an executive director. With Beisheim now in place, albeit in an interim capacity, he said the non-profit could look to bring more paid staff on board.

"Continuing to be fully 100 per cent volunteer-driven was becoming unsustainable. What P4P needs now are the resources and dedication of staff to help us," Beisheim said. "With success comes challenges of growing your resources… we're at the inflection point – which is a wonderful opportunity we should be excited about, not intimidated by."

Overnight success

Nataly Mylan, organizer of the annual Sleeping in Cars fundraiser, said the March 27 event was the most successful one yet.

Around 50 participants combined for $58,738 as of press time, with more donations still coming in. ACM Designs was recognized as the top business fundraiser, bringing in $11,450, the Halls/Saskatchewan Lake group named top team after raising $4,235 and Valerie Jarvis the top individual at $2,360.

"We're so thankful to be part of such an incredibly giving community," Mylan said. "We'd like to thank all the participants, sponsors, everyone who donated and cheered us on to help make this the most successful Sleeping in Cars ever."

Highlander events

British humour delights Haliburton

Highlands Little Theatre knocked it out of the park this past weekend, leaving hundreds of spectators in stitches with its presentation of *Calendar Girls.* Inspired by the real-life story of a group of women from northern England who raise money for cancer research by selling a calendar featuring themselves in tastefully provocative poses, the local production featured 13 County-based actors,11 behind-the-scenes crew and was directed by Jack Brezina. There were four shows March 24-28. The cast posed for their own calendar, with all proceeds benefitting Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. They've raised $2,660 as of press time with calendars available for a minimum $25 donation. To get one contact Barb Smith-Morrison at 705-754-2966 or barb@brooksong.ca.

Top: Marie (Kate Hall), Annie (Rita Jackson), Cora (Karen Frybort) and John (John Jackson) huddle together. Middle left: Annie and John enjoy a moment. Middle right: Chris (Kate Butler) and Celia (Christine Jonas-Simpson) prepare for a big reveal. Bottom: Cora launches into a story. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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- Accommodation/Restaurants
- Office rental Heritage Mall in Minden

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West Guilford Home $524,900
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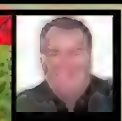
- Walk to lake, garage, heat pumps
- Renovate or build; big frontage



Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

SOYERS LAKE - $3,995,000
- Luxury 4 Season, 4 Bdrm, 4 Bath
- 300ft Sandy Waterfront, 5 Lk Chain
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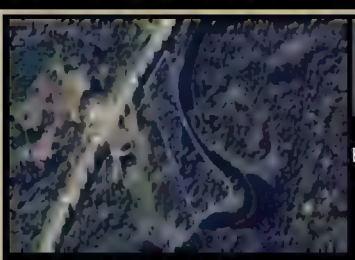

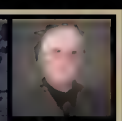

Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Lot on Irondale River $70,000
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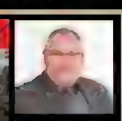

Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

West Guilford Home $449,000
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- Built in 2019, Tarion warranty

Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Miskwabi Lake – $1,199,000
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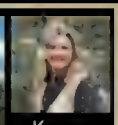
- Easy Year Round Access



Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

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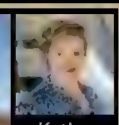

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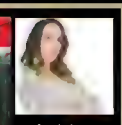

Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Contau Lake Lot $379,000
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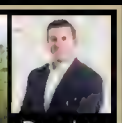
- Driveway, hydro, year-round road



Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Charming Home $600,000
- Newly Built 3 Bdrm, 1 Bath Home (2022)
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Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Kashagawigamog Lake $1,149,000
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Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

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Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Contau Lake $1,425,000
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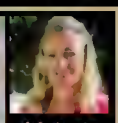
- Dtch'd 26'x40' Garage, Oversized Dock



Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Minden Condo $434,900
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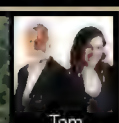

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Highlander events

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Hopping into the Easter spirit

The Re/Max Professionals North team hosted their Spring Hop event on March 28 at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. The free event featured Easter colouring and crafts, facepainting and of course, an Easter egg hunt. Organizers were on hand to collect monetary and non-perishable donations for Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank.

Top: Larissa and Reggie Ide watch as their daughter, Teagan, 3, hunts for Easter eggs. Middle: Andrew Ablett and Ashley Peacock took their boys Alex, and Andy, to meet the Easter bunny and hunt for some eggs on Saturday during the Spring Hop event. Bottom: Blakelynn Reynolds, 7, reacts after Pockets the Facepainter puts on the finishing touches during the Spring Hop event. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Highlander events

Haliburton resident Devan McConnell at the Fleming CREW job and volunteer fair on March 24. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Job fair expanding amid housing and transit hurdles

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With Ontario's unemployment rate hovering at 7.3 per cent, job-seekers and employers in the County are facing a unique set of challenges.

To help address those problems, the semi-annual Fleming CREW job and volunteer fair is expanding to Minden this spring, alongside the traditional Haliburton event that took place at the Legion on March 24.

Sandra Scott, Fleming CREW's manager of Employment Ontario programs, explained to *The Highlander* that expanding to Minden is an effort to "meet the bigger community's need." While the provincial unemployment rate is high, Scott said the situation in Haliburton is slightly higher than Ontario's average.

"We're fairly close when you look at the labour market report that was put out by the Workforce Development Board, which covers our Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge area," she said. "So we are about the same, if not a little higher in Haliburton for unemployment."

Scott noted a stark contrast between the desire to work and the ability to find a job.

"It's really hard right now. It's really not as strong as the employment environment that we've seen in the past," she said. "People want to be engaged, but they're just not able to find work right now."

Several factors play into keeping residents out of the job market, beyond the lack of opportunities. Scott pointed to the tariff influences on the market, rising fuel prices, transportation hurdles and the housing crisis in the County.

"[Employers] can't attract people to the area because of the lack of housing," she said. "People just can't get reasonable housing if they move up here."

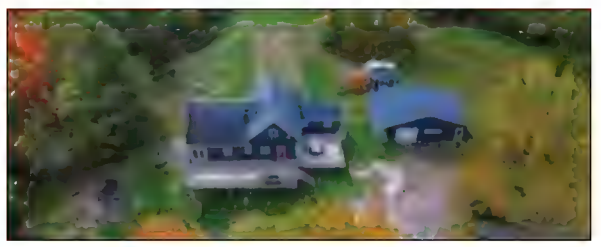
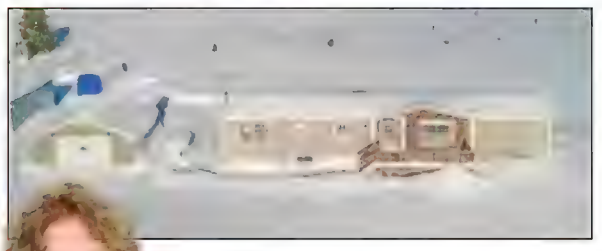
However, despite these hurdles, some businesses are finding success by focusing on workplace culture. Spencer Devolin, owner of Devolin Professional Painting, said he was looking to expand his company this year by adding a second crew. He said that for him, the secret to retention has been treating his staff with respect and providing a clear path forward.

"A big thing for me is creating an environment that people want to work in," Devolin said. "There's an opportunity to advance, to learn skills, to make more... if you're working all the time, you want to have fun while also managing your responsibilities"

But for many job seekers, the local market can feel like a clique. Haliburton resident Devan McConnell said he is looking for a career change, but establishing a foothold in the area seemed to be more about who you know.

"I find it's a pretty difficult location to establish something if you don't already have something," he said. "It can be a little tricky, especially if you don't have certain connections to certain areas of work through certain individuals, certain people."

McConnell said that while restaurants and tourism hubs provide some jobs, those without a trade or a "family business" connection often feel forced to look outside the County. The job fair in Minden is April 8 at the community centre from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1110 Sedgwick Road $885,000

1200 Ritchie Falls Road $469,000


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Highlander community

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLRA2025020:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull River, lying in front of Property Roll #4616-051-000-34900 located within Lot 27, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

2. **File No. PLSRA2025048:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of 1058 Renown Drive located within Lot 28, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden

3. **File No. PLSRA2025082:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Horseshoe Lake, lying in front of 1048 McInerney Lane located within Lot 15, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden

4. **File No. PLSRA2025086:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull River, lying in front of 1058 Bingo Lane located within Lot 30, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **May 1, 2026**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than May 1, 2026.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

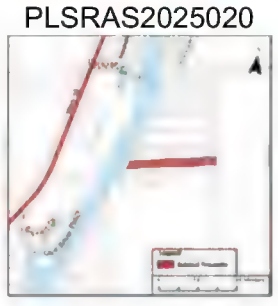
Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

PLSRA2025048

PLSRA2025082

PLSRA2025086

PLSRAS2025020



Saving a trip to the hospital

100 Women Who Care Haliburton County presented a $12,700 cheque to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) on March 23 with the money going towards a new Continuous Ambulatory Delivery Device. The medical equipment allows for a patient to receive medication at home or in hospice care rather than having to make the trip to the hospital.

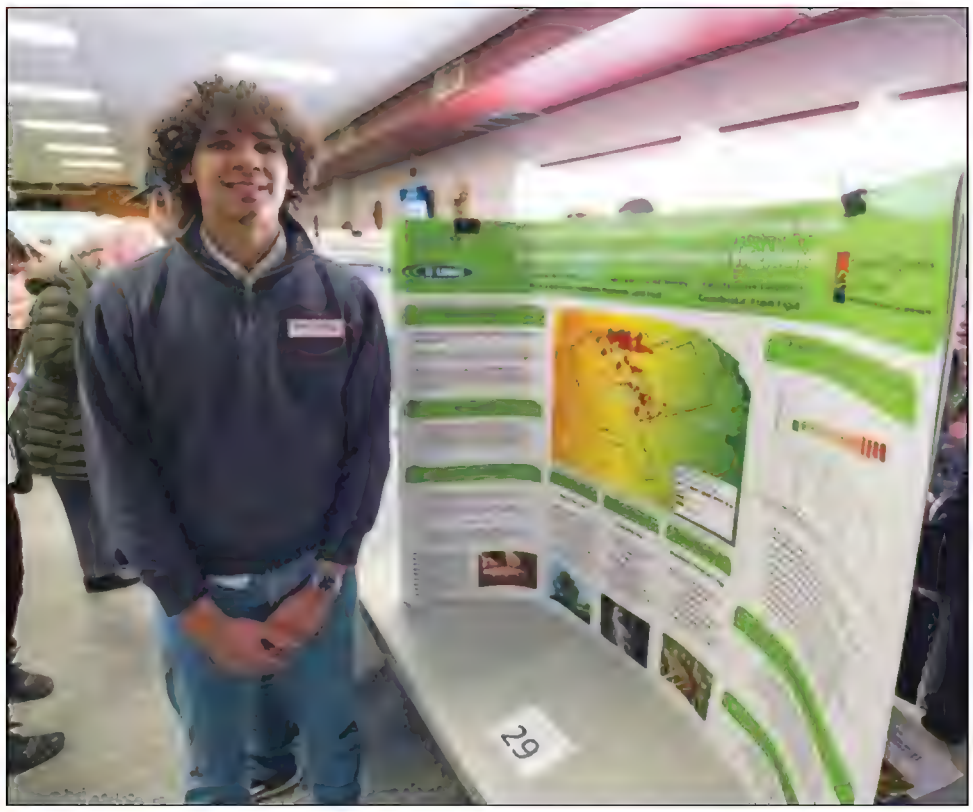
Above: 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County volunteers Leslie Banner and Margaret Cox present the cheque to HHHSF executive director Melanie Klodt Wong and Haliburton Highlands Health Services executives. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

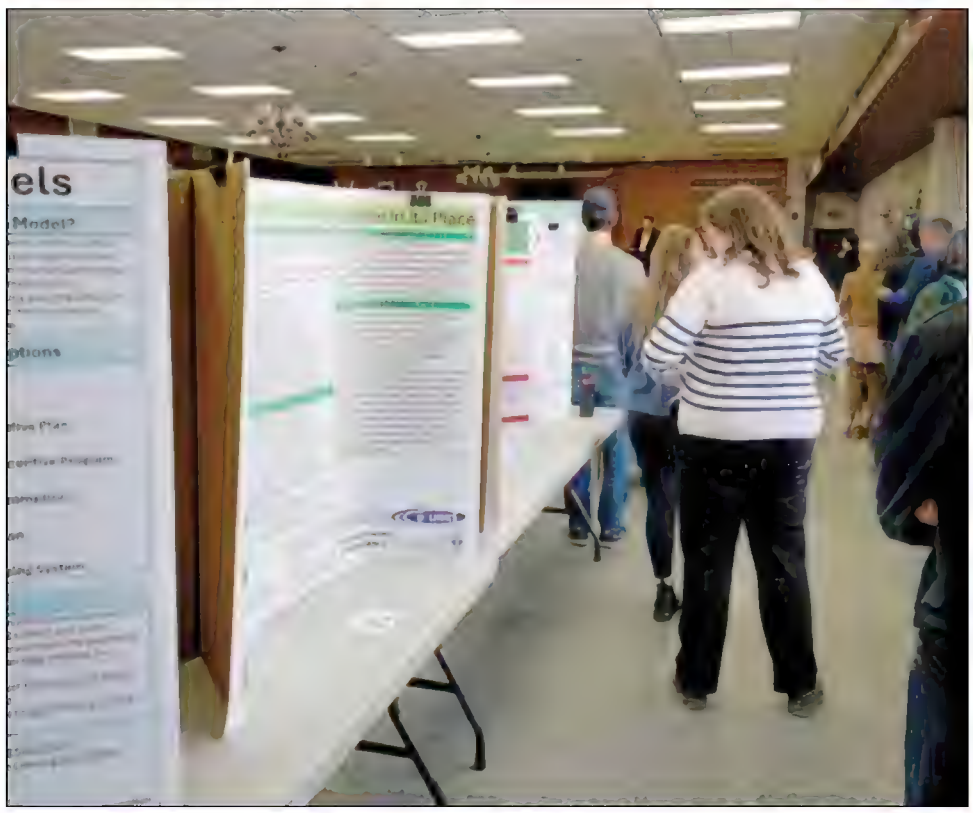
Boom for the bell

There was a familiar sound at Haliburton United Church this past Sunday (March 29) after workers from the Davey Tree Company of Canada volunteered time to inspect the belfry. Reverend Harry Morgan said the bell had been out of commission for several years. “The bell had flipped over, rendering the rope pull useless. The workers flipped it back and now it’s working again,” Morgan said, noting the company had been utilizing the church’s parking lot while working in the area. The bell is typically rung during every Sunday morning service and for weddings and other celebrations, Morgan said. *(Mike Baker)*

Above: A worker with the Davey Tree Company of Canada uses a boom lift to inspect – and fix – the bell at Haliburton United Church. *Photo submitted.*

Highlander environment





Mad science

U-Links' annual celebration of research returned to the Haliburton Legion on March 28, where students showcased more than 40 projects conducted in the Highlands throughout the past year. The event also featured several oral presentations and keynote speaker Dr. Karen Thompson.

Above: Attendees listen to opening remarks on Saturday morning. Top right: Trent University student Javed Bentley poses for a photo next to his project that highlights climate change in the Highlands and identifies where protection zones are needed. Bottom right: Students prepare to showcase their work following opening remarks. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

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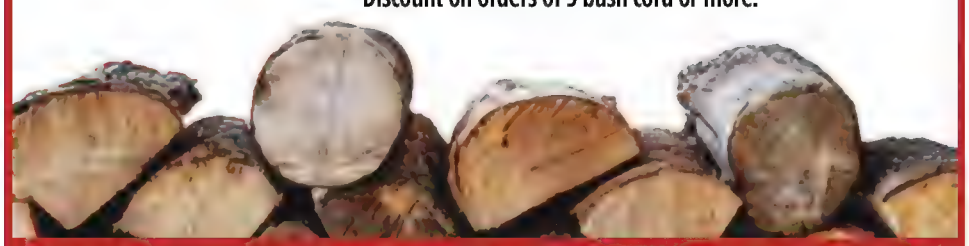

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Highlander sports

The Red Hawks badminton team poses for a photo as the season is set to get underway. Left to right back row: Coach Joe Dowling, coach Jason Morissette, coach Zach Morissette. Players: Chase Winder, Brechin Johnston, Hudson Horsely, Caleb Manning, Vanek Hewitt, Emmerson Dykes, Matt Scheffee, Adam Decarlo, Maya Parish, Sadie Evans-Fockler, Alivia Brown, Chloe Morissette, Kaitlyn VanderWier, Josh Duszah, Lincoln BrownFront row left to right: Anika Suke, Lyla Degeer, Annika Gervais, Kinzey Bull, Kenzie Milburn, Hailey Smith, Lilly Casey, Addy Parish. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Red Hawks badminton taking flight

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The sound of whooshing shuttlecocks zipping through the air has returned to the gymnasium at Hal High, signalling the start of the Red Hawks' badminton season.

The program saw a spike in participation this year, and with a roster of 36 players, the team is balancing a youth movement of beginners with a senior squad aiming for the championships. And for Jason Morissette, who is returning for his 28th season as coach of the badminton program, he's excited for what's ahead this spring.

"So we have a lot of new juniors out for badminton. We had a very large number come out this year, which is great for school spirit and just wanting participation," Morissette told *The Highlander*. "A lot of new Grade 9s, a lot of new Grade 10s, our junior team has a lot of new players, and it's the first time ever playing badminton for them."

Since for many students, this is their first time picking up a racket, and because of the relatively short high school season, the coaches have taken on a high-tempo training philosophy.

"I guess I call it speed badminton," the coach explained. "We're teaching them to get, and to grow their confidence and make them feel good about their abilities."

While the focus for the juniors is primarily on enjoyment and skill-building, Morissette said a few returning players have their eyes on the championships. The senior team provides the competitive backbone of the program, and highlighting the roster is a ladies' doubles team that secured a third-place finish at the Central Ontario Secondary School Athletics (COSSA) championships last year.

The coach explained that many of the returning seniors are not just playing for themselves; they are also serving as mentors. He pointed to a unique bond where two of the highest-ranked players in central Ontario are helping to train the Grade 9s.

"They've already started to teach them position and technique," Morissette said. "Because this is what we do here. And we remind them that these Grade 12 girls started just like you did four years ago. It's a process."

While badminton is often viewed as an individual sport, the Red Hawks are committed to building a team identity, the coach said. From the "significant" experience of travelling together on the bus, to a point system where every individual's win contributes to a team trophy.

"You always know that when you're going into that gym, you're going in as a Red Hawk team," Morissette said. "We've always taken pride in that, and as we walk into a gym, you know, here come the Red Hawks and here comes the Badminton team. We've had a strong tradition of that. We always support each other by cheering each other's matches on."

When asked what the ultimate goal for the season is, the coach looked past the standings.

"I want to create memories for kids that they can look back on when they're 50 years old and say, 'hey, I played high school badminton, and I played high school sports, and it was a lot of fun,'" he said. "Whether you won or lost, at least you can look back and say it was something memorable."

And asked for the three words that define the 2026 Red Hawks? The coach simply said: "Enthusiastic, happy, and optimistic."

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Home of the Highland Storm

U9 Yellow Sharp Electric

The U9 Highland Storm Yellow Sharp Electric team had an incredible season, filled with growth, determination, and teamwork. It has been truly rewarding for the coaching staff and parents to watch each athlete develop their skills and confidence over the course of the year.

The team's commitment to one another helped build strong defensive and offensive lines that became a key strength as the season progressed. On the defensive side, Jase Cox, Colton Guyatt, Connor Guyatt, Logan Nelson, and Brey Woodward worked tirelessly to protect their zone, showing grit, awareness, and strong teamwork.

Offensively, Zachary Collaci, Elliot Cybulski, Jackson Cybulski, Rhys Foster, Levi Kinghorn, Parker Shenton, Clayton Simms, and Logan Stancatti brought speed, quick thinking, and skill every game, creating scoring opportunities and keeping constant pressure on their opponents. The passing improved, positioning became more disciplined, and the team's overall awareness on the ice grew tremendously.

A special mention goes to our goalie, Wesley Cox, who was an absolute rockstar all season long. Time and time again, he came up with big saves in critical moments, giving the team confidence and keeping games within reach.

Our end of year tournament in Lindsay March 28-29 perfectly captured the spirit of this group. After a tough loss in the opening game, they battled hard and came out on top in the second game, with an exciting 6-5 win. They carried that momentum into the final game against our home town rivals, U9 Storm Blue Cottage Country Building Supplies. After tying the game 4-4, the team dug deep in overtime and secured an unforgettable victory.

A huge thank you to our coaching staff, Stu Shenton, Kevin Nelson, Adam Guyatt, and Shawn Foster for all of their time and commitment to the kids this season. Special shout out to our team manager, Alyssa Kinghorn. This season would not have been such a huge success without Alyssa going above and beyond to make our season flow seamlessly, and to make all of the players feel special. And, lastly, a big thank you to our generous sponsor, Sharp Electric. *(Submitted)*

U7 Initiation Timbits

The Highland Storm U7 Initiation Timbits wrapped up a fantastic season filled with growth, energy, and plenty of smiles.

With a large roster of 35 young players, the group met every Tuesday and Sunday, rotating between the arenas in Minden, Haliburton, and Wilberforce.

Throughout the season, the Timbits worked hard developing their Hockey Canada fundamentals through a mix of obstacle courses, skill-building drills, games, and scrimmages.

Of course, there was no shortage of fun along the way, including occasional push-ups on the ice. The improvement from start to finish was clear across the board, with every player building confidence and advancing their skills.

A highlight for many was the year-end Glen Dart Tournament in Haliburton. The Timbits fielded two teams, giving players the chance to compete against friends in exciting half-ice games. The tournament showcased just how far the group had come, with strong effort, teamwork, and plenty of enthusiasm on display.

There were lots of memorable moments, including standout offensive efforts from Callum Da Lanca and Dominic Dart, who not only found the back of the net on several occasions but also made a point of helping set up teammates for their very first goals. In net, Keon Donaldson and Austin Hunt faced a high volume of shots and rose to the challenge with some impressive saves.

Most importantly, the season ended with big smiles and a love for the game.

Head coach Ken Cox, Jennifer Button, team manager and trainer, assistant coaches Devin Dart, Alex Lopez and Chris Iles. *(Submitted)*

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m., youth dart league (ages 10-18) 6:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo will resume in the spring.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday 3-6 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Darts April 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. Exercise club April 14, 21 and 28 at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Darts April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 2 p.m.; cribbage at 6:30 p.m.; April 1, 15, 22 and 29 quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. HHHS social rec April 9 and 23 at 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Fish and chips April 3, and 17 from 5 to 8 p.m., with karaoke from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. April 10 and 24 is community care lunch at noon and wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Karaoke April 18 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and trivia April 25 at 7 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only. Ladies auxiliary breakfast April 12 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: **Sunday and Monday** 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first Sunday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session every second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

EVENTS

April 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Wilberforce FUNraising Group is celebrating Easter weekend with its 45th annual Maple Syrup Festival at the Lloyd Watson Centre. There will be pancakes and sausages served with locally-produced maple syrup. All you can eat, adults $8 and children 10 and under $4. Free admission to the bazaar and craft fair.

April 4, 10 a.m. to noon, Family Easter Egg Hunt at the Robert McCausland Memorial Centre in Gooderham. Hosted by the Gooderham Pentecostal Church. Everyone is welcome to bring a basket and fill it with chocolate.

April 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hop on out for the Highlands' annual Easter Market, taking place at the Haliburton Legion. Join for some egg-citing shopping. Free entry.

April 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Abbey Gardens is hosting its annual Easter at the Gardens event. Engage in an Easter egg hunt on the Chickadee Trail, decorate sugar cookies, complete a spring time craft and stage selfies with ponies.

April 7, 1 p.m. Thinking gardening this spring? Join the Minden and District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre. Learn about 'nocturnal insects: fireflies and moths' from guest speaker Kathleen Patnode, followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome.

April 8, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fleming Crew is hosting a job and volunteer fair at the Minden Community Centre. Meet employers to learn about job opportunities, discover community organizations seeking volunteers and access employment and skill upgrading services to help with your job search.

April 8, 7 to 9 p.m. Scott Russell will be at the HHOA fish hatchery to share stories of his experiences covering 17 Olympic Games as a broadcaster with the CBC. Hosted by the Telling Our Stories Speaker Series. Cost is $15 per person.

April 11, all day. The Haliburton Documentary Film Festival – also known as Doc(k) Day – is running at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. There are four features on the slate this year, promoting positive and inspiring stories born in Canada. Tickets for each documentary are $10 or $35 for the full day. Available online at www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/dock-day-2026.

April 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Haliburton School of Art + Design is hosting its spring open house. Learn about certificate and diploma art programs and year-round course opportunities, tour the school and residence, check out studios and take part in a hands-on fabric brooch workshop, starting at noon.

April 12, 2 p.m. Razzamataz Kids' Shows closes out its 2026 season with Chris McKhool, who brings his 'Earth, Seas and Air' show to the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Tickets are $10 for adults and $7 for children.

April 17, 6:30 p.m. Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents is hosting a fundraising dance at Highland Hills United Church in Minden. Music provided by Adverse Conditions. Refreshments are available by donation. Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Available online at Eventbrite.ca, at 69 Eastern Ave. in Haliburton during office hours, or by calling 705-286-1470.

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What's on

Broadcaster to talk all things Olympic

By Lisa Gervais

Former CBC sportscaster Scott Russell is coming to Haliburton County. *Facebook.*

Award-winning sports broadcaster, Scott Russell, will talk all things Olympics when he appears as a guest speaker for the April 8 instalment of the Telling Our Stories speaker series in Haliburton.

Russell is a Canadian Screen Award and Gemini Award-winner. Speaker series spokesman, Barrie Martin, said their guest "has a few stories to tell about the Olympic games, past, present and future."

The event is scheduled to be held at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association fish hatchery from 7-9 p.m.

Russell recently appeared before the Future of Sport in Canada Commission and the National Summit in Ottawa.

Martin said, "sport is under the microscope right now because of various transgressions, but also because of the spectre of sports gambling and an increasingly sedentary youth. The Canadian sports system needs a way forward. Scott has some opinions about that."

Russell brought nearly 40 years of experience, passion and knowledge to his role as co-host of CBC Sports Presents. In addition, his unparalleled enthusiasm for amateur sport shines through in every aspect of his work, Martin said.

After joining CBC Charlottetown in 1985 as a news reporter, Russell turned to sports in 1986 and quickly established himself as a talent. From 1988 to 1992, he was a sports reporter and anchor for CBC in Montreal until he moved to Toronto as a network sports commentator.

The longtime host of the weekly show CBC Sports Presents, Russell has covered 17 Olympic Games for CBC, including seven as host, and also led the network's coverage of six Pan Am Games, six Commonwealth Games, two FIFA World Cups and two FIFA Women's World Cups. In addition, Russell was a host and rink-side reporter for CBC's Hockey Night in Canada for 14 years.

Also an acclaimed author of three books, Russell has earned numerous accolades throughout his broadcast career, including a Canadian Screen Award and Gemini Award with 15 nominations, a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to sports in Canada, the George Gross Award for Outstanding Broadcasting from Sports Media Canada, a Medal of Distinction from Toronto Sports Hall of Honour and a CBC President's Award in the Brand Champion category in recognition of his dedication and enthusiasm for his work covering amateur athletics for the network. He is an honorary board member of the Paralympic Foundation of Canada, an advisory board member for the International Centre for Olympic Studies at Western University, and is the fifth Chancellor of Nipissing University in North Bay, from where he holds an honorary doctorate (D.Lit.).

An active runner, Russell completed the Boston Marathon in 2005 and 2012. He lives in Toronto with his wife, Catherine.

He was out of the country and unavailable for comment for this story.

Martin said it may be necessary to change venues if ticket sales warrant. Admission is $15/person. If you would like to book a seat you can do so online at https://tellingourstories.company.site/ or by email barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com, or phone 705.457.7557.

Russell will also be a guest at an April 11 fundraiser at the Minden Curling Club for the Minden Community Food Centre. It features a three-course meal prepared by Aaron Walker, co-owner of McKeck's Restaurant, and a conversation with Russell and Olympic figure skating bronze medalist Tracy Wilson.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- April 16 – Special Council Meeting
- April 30 – Special Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

A MESSAGE FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES

- We have a new set of youth programs ready for this spring! Sports include soccer, volleyball, multi-sport, basketball, krafty kids, and NEW ball hockey league. Check out the programs and register online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.
- Cemetery clean-up will be taking place from April 18 - April 30, 2026.

BID OPPORTUNITY

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

- RFP No. RDS 26-001 Clear Lake Road Twin Culverts (submission deadline April 10, 2026, at 12:00 PM).

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

HAPPY EASTER!

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Friday, April 3rd and Monday, April 6th, 2026, to celebrate Easter.

- Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
- Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.)
- SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)

The following facilities are open over the weekend as follows:

- S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena: April 4th & 5th 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre: April 4th from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- All waste disposal sites will be open on Easter Monday and will operate on Sunday hours. Regular winter hours will apply for all other days.

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

Join us on April 22 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a community litter cleanup along our beautiful riverwalk and downtown core. Be part of the effort to keep our community litter-free while celebrating Earth Day.

To participate in this great initiative, please register by scanning the QR code.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- MHCC will host a free screening of *Earth to Mouth* (2003) on Thursday, April 2 at 1:00 PM. The film follows the planting, tending, and harvesting of Asian vegetables grown at an Ontario farm for Chinese markets and restaurants, and tells the story of farmer Lau King-Fai, his family, and the migrant Mexican workers who help run the farm. Presented in collaboration with the Haliburton County Public Library, this screening is open to all ages. Admission is free. No pre-registration is required.
- Families are invited to join the MHCC for Egg-venture in the Village on Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This family-friendly Easter event featuring an egg hunt across the Heritage Village, an Easter story hosted by the Haliburton County Public Library (10:00 – 10:30 AM), and a decorate-your-own egg craft. Suitable for children ages 4–12. Admission is by donation. Don't forget to bring your own basket!
- Visit the Agnes Jamieson Gallery to view our new exhibit *Mute Eloquence of Light: Arctic Works* by Janet Read. The exhibit will be on display from March 26 – May 23. The Artist Talk and Reception will take place on Saturday, April 11 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 · Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 · Fax: 705-286-4917

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Municipality of Highlands East — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

Summer Employment Opportunities

The Municipality of Highlands East is currently recruiting students for summer employment opportunities for the 2026 year.

If you are currently enrolled in secondary school or a post-secondary program and returning to school in the fall of 2026, you are encouraged to apply for an opportunity.

The following positions are available with the municipality:

- (2) Summer Parks & Recreation Attendant (Parks & Property Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (1) Records Management Clerk (Administration Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (1) Information Centre Student (Economic Development Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (2) Summer Landfill Attendants (Public Works Department – 16 weeks; 35 hours/week)
- (4) Various Lifeguard Positions (Summer Swim Program – 8 weeks)

Please note, for positions where you may be required to drive in the execution of your duties, a Class G2 or G Driver's Licence is mandatory. You will also be required to provide an acceptable driver's abstract and a criminal reference check.

Most positions listed above are available from the beginning of May through to the end of August for a total of 16 weeks. The Lifeguard positions are for a total of 8 weeks only.

If you are interested in receiving a more detailed job description for one of the positions noted above, please email tvader@highlandseast.ca requesting a copy of the specific posting.

If you are interested in applying, applications **clearly marked with the position you are applying for** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, via email, in person, mail or fax. Interested applicants may submit their resume, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: humanresources@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator.

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NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org

Highlander classifieds

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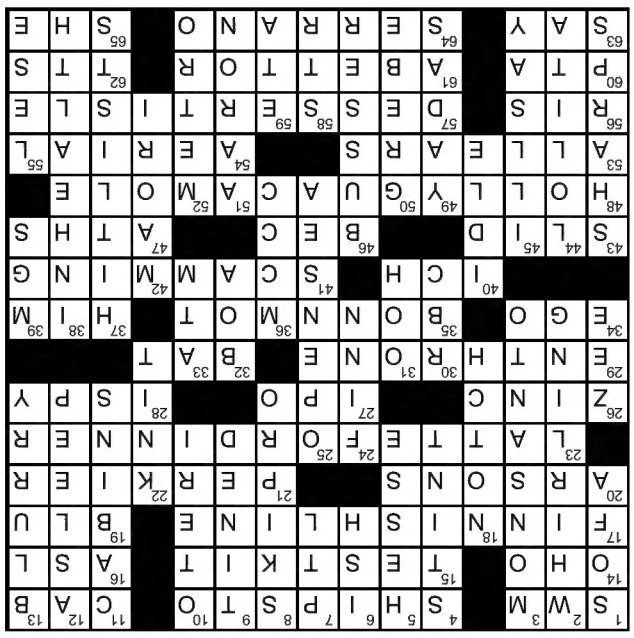

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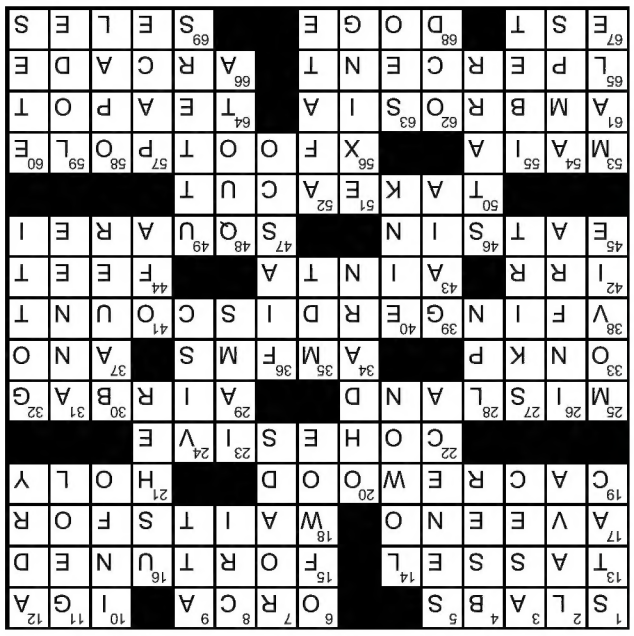

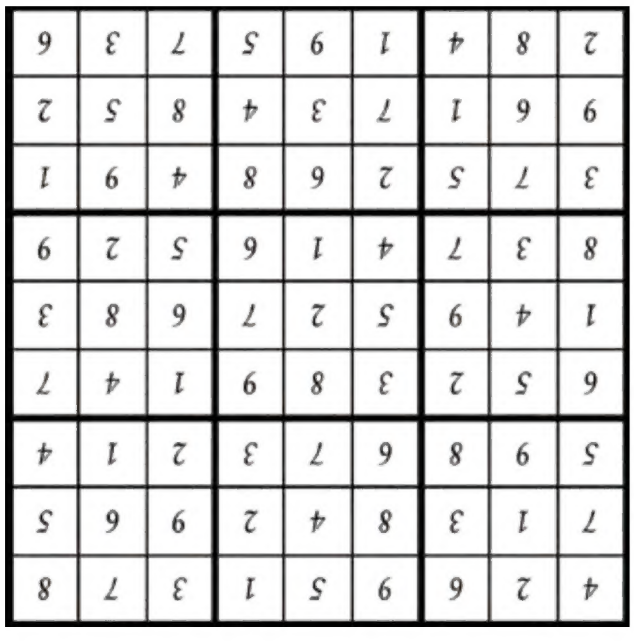

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Highlander puzzles

By the Roman Numerals

by Barbara Olson
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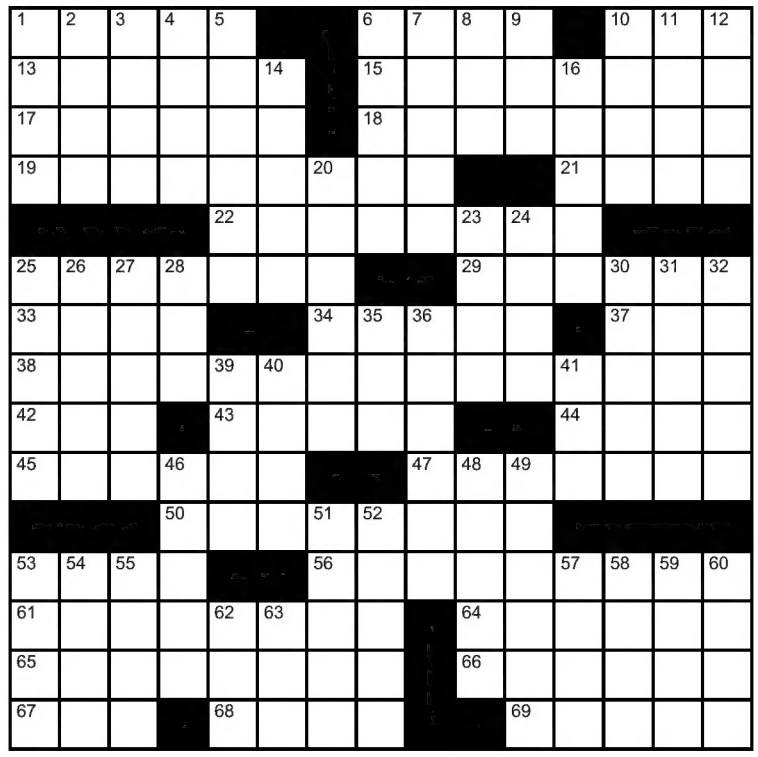

Across

1 Concrete units
6 Canucks logo creature
10 "Hometown Proud" market
13 Fez hanger
15 Top corporate earners
17 Skin cream touted by Jennifer Aniston
18 Expects the arrival of
19 Pooh's place
21 Like church water
22 Having glue-like properties
25 Alternative to Italian or ranch
29 Blowout in a crash
33 Assigned to peeling, as a G.I.
34 Versatile radios
37 "It's ___-win situation"
38 Shoplifting, casually
42 Rule-breaking, in gram.
43 Bon Jovi's "This ___ Love Song"
44 Stocking stuffers?
45 Orders SkipTheDishes
47 Start-again spot
50 Keep some, as money for services
53 Mother of Hermes
56 Object used for avoiding something, proverbially
61 Food of the gods
64 Vessel on a trolley
65 Couple's equal portion
66 Kids' "casino"
67 Guinness Book suffix
68 Italian magistrate
69 Palindromic tennis champ

Down

1 Quick and detached, in mus.
2 Magma, once spewed
3 "Be there in ___"
4 Big talker, slangily
5 Toronto college with an Iroquois name
6 Tell a tale ___ (relate misery)
7 Highways and byways
8 "Dernier ___" (latest fashion)
9 Jury addresser: Abbr.
10 Wiki offering
11 Rock lover's subj.
12 Not ___ eye in the house
14 Needing to be restocked
16 "Walk this way" worker
20 "Well, shucks!"
23 "Good for life" pet food brand
24 Earl's inferior: Abbr.
25 Rotten Tomatoes topic
26 Start to red or structure
27 Mini, midi or maxi
28 Care fac. staffer
30 Eddie of sportswear
31 A year in Montréal
32 Crime boss known as the "Teflon Don"
35 Alta. summer setting
36 Dumpster fire
39 Earth mother of myth
40 Kindle text-displaying technology
41 Son-gun link
46 "Octopus's Garden" writer
48 Amount to be met
49 Voices
51 Marking a ballot, maybe
52 ___ worse than death
53 Cock or bull
54 Accelerates, with "up"
55 "Su-u-u-re"
57 Walk nervously
58 "Fiery" gem
59 Valuable ore deposit
60 Hot times in Québec?
62 Anxiety condition, for short
63 Hits booster, in web lingo

Looking for ladies that played soft-ball multiple years from 1960-89!

The Haliburton County Ladies Softball League are being honoured in the Haliburton County Hall of Fame!

Please contact me if you played and can attend. **Induction is 2pm, May 23rd.**
Also looking for action shots, please send to: **cheryl_greg4@hotmail.com**

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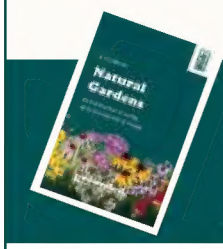

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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